

GIANT CONSPIRACY IS UNEARTHED

PRESIDENT THREATENED IN
PLOT BARED TO UNDERMINE
AND WRECK UNITED STATESConspiracy of German-Aus-
tro Agents Said to Have
Been Revealed.

COULD CREATE CHAOS

Plans to Honeycomb Coun-
try's Defense and Fortifi-
cations in Confession.Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 1.—Federal and
county officers today were investigating
a "conspiracy" which they say was
made to them in the office of Prosecut-
ing Attorney Cyrus Locher late yester-
day by Dr. E. W. Ritter, in which
Ritter is claimed to have told of hav-
ing knowledge of plots against munition
plants in the United States.Ritter was arrested on a charge of
passing a worthless check for \$50 on
Miss Clara Darby. He is being held
in \$5,000 bail until the story federal
officials say he told, can be proved.
Among the items in Ritter's alleged
confession was the claim that his real
name is Emeric W. Ritter von Ret-
taghe, son of a former Austrian count
and a former officer in both the Aus-
trian and German navies. Today, how-
ever, Ritter denied to newspaper men
that he is the son of a count.Inventor of Liquid Fire.
Ritter claims he is the inventor of
"liquid fire," officers say, and that he
has been experimenting extensively
with it in the local gas fields.Revelations of conspiracies against
munition plants and of plots men-
acing the United States government
are said to have been made in a state-
ment by Dr. E. W. Ritter in the county
prosecutor's office. Ritter in his cell
in the county jail is reported to have
declared that Miss Maybell Clara Dar-
by, who caused his arrest on a charge
of passing a worthless check, had her-
self been approached by mysterious
agents eager to obtain papers holding
war department secrets.The story alleged to have been told
by Ritter, who claims to be the in-
ventor of "liquid fire," contained the
following statements:
His real name is Emeric W. Rit-
ter von Rettaghe, son of an Austrian
count and a former officer in both the
German and Austrian navies.
That he had been in the pay of the
Austrian consular agents throughout the
country and had received \$2,000 for
his services during the past year.On Inside of Plots.
That he knew the inside details of
plots so extensive as to threaten em-
barassment of the United States gov-
ernment and involving representatives
of foreign governments at Washington.
That conspiracies had to do with
plans to destroy or cripple war munition
plants; gaining secret information
concerning United States fortifications,
undermining the government so as to
create chaos if this country became in-
volved in international complications;
and, finally, the attempt at bribery of
United States government agents to
obtain information.President Threatened.
That he was present in a "foreign
consulate" in New York when plans
were discussed which threatened the
life of the president, the secretary of
state and other government officials
and that while the plan was not de-
finitely worked out, he heard an attache
there remark:
"If government officials in Washing-
ton do not treat us justly in settling
these various international disputes,
such as the Lusitania, we will sprinkle
them with liquid fire and that will be
the end."Far-reaching investigations are ex-
pected to follow Ritter's arrest, since
he is being held as a federal prisoner,
although on a state warrant with the
high bail of \$5,000, believed to have
been arranged so the federal authori-
ties may hold him while they follow
the amazing clues he has furnished them.Additional outbreaks are expected
from McDonough county where a
steer, one of an infected herd doomed
to die, escaped from the federal and
state inspectors on the brink of the
grave which had been dug to hold
the carcasses. The animal has not
been seen since, although the entire
county has been aroused to the dan-
ger that exists to healthy herds so
long as the animal is at large.Kaiser Pays
Visit to Halt
Austro StepRome, Dec. 1. (via Paris, 4:45 a.
m.)—"The real object of Emperor
William's visit to Vienna, was to put
a stop to efforts Austria is making, by
means of negotiations through Madrid
with the Vatican, to obtain a separate
peace with the quadruple entente,"
says the Tribune. "Vienna and Ber-
lin disagree on the question of peace.
Berlin desires to treat separately
with each of the allies, so as to break
up the quadruple entente and then to
crush England, but Vienna desires a
real and lasting peace to end the ten-
sion, which rapidly is becoming too
great for Austria to bear."Paris, Dec. 1. (5:10 a. m.)—Diplo-
matic circles at Rome believe, says
the correspondent of the Journal, that
the visit of Emperor William to
Vienna has made to reconcile, if pos-
sible, divergent views of Germany and
Austria and obtain a pledge of terri-
torial sacrifices from Hungary in the
hope of assuring the neutrality of
Rumania.Alexander Marghiloman and P. P.
Carp, leader of the Rumanian con-
servatives, are reported to have as-
sured the Duke of Mecklenburg-
Schwerin when he was in Bucharest
that the benevolent neutrality of Ru-
mania could be counted upon by the
Teutonic allies if Germany could in-
duce Austria to cede Transylvania
and part of Bukovina to Rumania. M.
Carp is said to have promised also to
bring about changes in the Rumanian
cabinet.Negotiations between Berlin and
Vienna, the Journal says, were fruit-
less owing to the determined opposi-
tion of Hungary, and it is asserted the
German ruler is endeavoring to in-
duce Emperor Francis Joseph to con-
sent to the sacrifice of Transylvania
on the understanding that Germany
will return to Austria two provinces
of Silesia annexed to Prussia in 1806.Amsterdam, Dec. 1 (via London,
10:45 a. m.)—Reports that several
members of the Austrian cabinet have
resigned are confirmed by an auto-
graph letter from Emperor Francis
Joseph, published in the Wiener Zei-
tung of Vienna. The emperor has ac-
cepted the resignations of Dr. Karl
Heinold D'Udnynek, minister of the
interior; Dr. Rudolf Schuster von
Bonnett, minister of commerce, and
Baron Engel von Malfeldon, minister
of finance.Acceptance of these resignations is
qualified with the proviso that the ser-
vices of the retiring ministers are to
be available, if required.Dr. Heinold and Baron Engel have
been appointed members of the upper
house, while the rank of Freiherr has
been conferred on Dr. Schuster.Prince Hohenlohe-Schilling Furst,
president of the supreme court of ac-
counts, has been appointed minister
of the interior; Ritter von Leth, gov-
ernor of the postal savings bank, min-
ister of finance, and Herr von Spitz-
miller, minister of commerce.The first reports of the resignation
of the Austrian cabinet ministers came
almost simultaneously with the visit
to Vienna of Emperor William, Mon-
day.No authentic information has been
received concerning the political atti-
tude which brought about the retire-
ment of the ministers, but their with-
drawal and Emperor William's inter-
view with Emperor Francis Joseph
have caused speculation concerning
Austria's reported willingness to enter
peace negotiations.UNCLE JOE CANNON
HAS NARROW ESCAPEChicago, Ill., Dec. 1.—Joseph G.
Cannon, enroute to Washington to re-
sume his seat in the national house of
representatives, narrowly missed
death or serious injury here today,
according to employees of the Union
League club."Uncle Joe" had left the club and
started diagonally across Jackson
Boulevard, disregarding Chicago's
traffic regulations, when a shout of
warning from Dennis J. O'Neil, door-
man at the club, halted him. A big
limousine bore down on the congress-
man while he stood irresolute. The
chauffeur threw on his brakes, realiz-
ing he could not stop his heavy car
then swerved if across the path of op-
posite bound traffic. He missed an-
other automobile and Mr. Cannon a
few inches. For just a moment the
former speaker of the house looked at
the big machine, then, with a char-
acteristic shrug of his shoulders, con-
tinued across the boulevard.

—THE ANNUAL HOLDUP—

POSITION OF
VILLA FORCE
CAUSES FEARDouglas, Ariz., Dec. 1.—Considerable
uncertainty prevailed today in official
quarters over the probable movement
of the advance guard of General Jose
Rodriguez, the Villa commander, who
yesterday thrust his army between the
Carranza forces at Nacozari and the
border, laying Agua Prieta, the Mexi-
can fortified town opposite here, open to
a second attack.Carranza officials were reported to
have received advices that Fronteras,
22 miles south of Agua Prieta, had been
made the concentration point for the
forces of General Rodriguez, which are
said to number from 2,000 to 5,000 men.
In the meantime their leader is ex-
pected to determine whether to retire to
Chihuahua or make an attack on the
weakened Carranza garrison at
Agua Prieta, where there are less than
500 soldiers.Another report was to the effect that
Rodriguez had severed connections
with Villa. According to this report
Rodriguez was making his way to-
ward Chihuahua with money and loot
he is alleged to have taken at Cananea
previous to his evacuation of that town
more than a week ago.There is some apprehension here
concerning the probable fate of 22
Americans at El Tigre, as well as nine
Americans remaining at Nacozari. The
Americans at El Tigre and Nacozari
are said to have expressed their in-
tention of taking their places on the
firing line with the Carranza troops,
as neutrality during a possible attack
would avail them nothing.Topolobampo, Mexico, (via wireless
to San Diego, Cal., Dec. 1.)—Admiral
Winslow is on board the cruiser San
Diego, with the expeditionary force of
United States marines, has arrived off
this port. Admiral Winslow an-
nounced today his intention of making
a personal investigation of conditions
at the American colony at Los Mochis.On account of the unsettled condi-
tions which have prevailed in the his-
tory of Los Mochis before the raid
and the American refugees said the
promised adequate protection had not
been afforded by the Carranza forces,
American here have decided not to re-
turn to Los Mochis at present. An en-
gagement took place Monday between
Carranza and Villa forces at Don, a
station between San Blas, Sinaloa and
Navajoa, Sonora, and the Carranza of-
ficials here have received unverified
reports that 500 Villa troops were cap-
tured.Reports just received from the inter-
ior state that 500 Yaqui Indians raided
the town of Saque Grande, Sonora,
Nov. 13, and killed among others, John
Lehr, an American citizen.

THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for
Rock Island, Davenport, Moline
and vicinity.Fair tonight and Thursday; colder
tonight with the lowest temperature
about 10 degrees. Rising temperature
Thursday.Temperature at 7 a. m. 28. Highest
yesterday, 35; lowest last night, 23.
Velocity of wind at 7 a. m. five miles
per hour.
Relative humidity at 7 p. m., 97; at
7 a. m., 79; at 1 p. m. today, 53.
Stage of water, i. e. a fall of 1 in
last 24 hours.

J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster.

Attack King
of Rumania
During TalkParis, Dec. 1. (5:15 a. m.)—"Parti-
sans and adversaries of the govern-
ment came to blows at the opening
session of the Rumanian parliament,"
telegraphs the Berne correspondent of
the Matin. "King Ferdinand had hard-
ly begun to read his speech when he
was interrupted with cries of 'Down
with the government' from M. Milie,
leader of the interventionists, and his
adherents.""No sooner had the king departed
than a general fight began between
the two factions."THIRTY ARE DEAD
FROM EXPLOSIONIs Total List Given Out by Officials—
Populace Is Frightened by
"Flare-Up" Today.Wilmington, Del., Dec. 1.—There
was a small explosion of smokeless
powder early today at the DuPont pow-
der plant at Carney's Point, N. J.,
across the Delaware river from this
city. No one was hurt and the property
damage was slight, company officials
said.There have been no more deaths
among the five injured in the Hagley
explosion of yesterday. It is feared,
however, that several of them will die.
One of the injured, Edwin Davis, left
the hospital today. Louis Booker, who
died in a hospital last night, making
the death list 30, left a widow and
eight small children.EXPECT TO CLOSE
SESSION TODAYSpringfield, Ill., Dec. 1.—Members
of the extraordinary session of the leg-
islature, begun a week ago last Mon-
day, expected to complete their work
today and recess the session until some
time after the first of the year. By
taking a recess, it was pointed out,
the lawmakers would be in a position
to enact further corrective legislation,
should the courts sustain further
points in the Ferguson suit.More than half of the state appor-
tionalized by the supreme court's
decision on the Ferguson suit
had been reenacted by the special ses-
sion when the lawmakers convened
this morning. The other half of these
measures, reenactment of which neces-
sitated the calling of this special ses-
sion, were slated for passage without
opposition today.BRITISH STEAMSHIP
KINGSWAY IS SUNKLondon, Dec. 1. (12:10 p. m.)—The
British steamship Kingsway has been
sunk. Her captain and 21 members of
the crew have been landed. Five oth-
ers are missing.London, Dec. 1. (3:42 p. m.)—Sink-
ing of the coal-laden Swedish steam-
ship Sabrine in the North sea by a
German submarine is reported in a
dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph
company. The crew was taken to Em-
den.JAPAN BARON
HAS PLAN FOR
AN ALLIANCENew York, Dec. 1.—Baron Etsch
Shibusawa, the Japanese financier who
is here today for a short stay, elaborated
on his plan to maintain peace after
the war by a six-power alliance com-
prising the United States, Great Brit-
ain, France, Russia, Italy and Japan.
On his way from San Francisco to New
York, the baron said he had talked
with many leading Americans on meth-
ods of securing lasting peace. One of
the men with whom he discussed the
proposed six-power plan was Charles
W. Elliott, president emeritus of Har-
vard university."I will lay this plan before our lead-
ing business and thinking men," said
the baron, "and I will do all in my
power to make this idea take hold of
public opinion, so that when peace
comes Japan may be in a position to
ask the United States to enter the six-
power alliance and induce other na-
tions to become associated. I am of
the opinion that when the time comes
for peace America's influence and
weight will obtain a peace that will
not be disturbed for many years and
a peace that will be for justice and
honor.""In order to bring about this most
desirable result we must look princi-
pally to the people of this great re-
public, and I am gratified to know that
this matter is engaging serious con-
sideration among the leaders of thought
and affairs in this country. Japan, I
am convinced, will be ready to do its
part.""United, these two nations will be
able to do much in preventing the re-
currence of such disastrous calamities
to humanity in the future. From this
point of view also we thus see how im-
portant it is that there should be
friendship and good understanding be-
tween Japan and the United States."FOURTEEN DEAD
IN MINE TRAGEDYContinue Rescue Work in Search for
Remainder of 300 Entombed by
Blast.Boomer, W. Va., Dec. 1.—The bodies
of 14 miners who lost their lives in
mine number 2 of the Boomer Coal
and Coke company by an explosion of
a blow-out shot which yesterday im-
periled 300 men, were brought to the
surface this morning and taken to the
temporary morgue nearby. Soon af-
terwards a rescue party appeared with
five other men who had been buried
far under ground and who, though
still alive, were in a critical condition.
They were taken to a hospital.Other parties who had been search-
ing the workings during the night
came out with the report that they had
been unable to locate any of the five
or the six miners still missing, and
their places were at once taken by
fresh volunteers, all of whom are
working under the direction of the
state mine inspectors and engineers
from the bureau of mines.15,000 SERBIANS ARE MADE
PRISONERS IN CAPTURE OF
PRISREND BY BULGARIANSBoy Scouts
Aid in Fight
for DefenseNew York, Dec. 1.—One hundred
women aided by five good boy scouts
are canvassing the city today for the
collection of signatures to a petition
addressed to New York representa-
tives and senators urging them to
support President Wilson's plan for
national preparedness. They hope to
obtain 200,000 signatures. The cam-
paign is conducted by a committee of
special relief society, who have designat-
ed it as "Defense day." Already
4,000 voters have applied to the so-
ciety for blanks and signed them
without solicitation. Ten of the larg-
est corporations in the city are can-
vassing their own employees.The petitions will be sent to Wash-
ington in time to reach members of
congress before its opening next
Wednesday.Mrs. William Alexander, president
of the society, says the movement is
intended to show the representatives
and senators that they have the back-
ing of their constituents in support of
a better army and navy."It is a test of strength to show
them that the people who are crying
out against preparedness are a feeble
minority," she declared.DEMOCRATS SPLIT
ON CLOTURE RULEParty Members in Caucuses Divided
On Governing Debate
Principles.Washington, Dec. 1.—Democrats of
the senate in caucus today failed to
agree on a rule to provide for cloture
of debate, postponing action until to-
morrow. The special rules committee
was not ready to make any definite
recommendation but will endeavor to
submit a proposal tomorrow.The caucus deferred till Friday elec-
tion of a president pro tem. Senator
Kern, chairman of the conference, said
the election was deferred by common
consent with a view to assuring har-
mony.Senator Clifton of West Virginia
was elected chairman of the confer-
ence and Senator Lewis of Illinois was
re-elected party "whip" on the steering
committee. Senator Kern named Sen-
ators Martin, Owen, Chamberlain,
Thomas, O'Gorman, Williams, James
and Reed.AMERICAN RED CROSS
PRAISED IN GERMANYWashington, Dec. 1.—Gratitude and
praise for the work of the American
Red Cross in Germany are expressed
in a letter received today at the Red
Cross headquarters here from Count
Tallyrand-Perigard, who was assigned
by the German Red Cross to coop-
erate with the American surgeons and
nurses while in Germany. The letter
was in response to one sent by the
American Red Cross, thanking the
count for his courtesy and attention
to the American units during their
stay in Germany.

THE WAR TODAY

Capture of 15,000 Serbians by
the Bulgarians when they took
Prisrend, the fall of which was re-
ported yesterday, is announced by
Berlin today. A Bulgarian state-
ment places the number of prison-
ers at between 16,000 and 17,000,
together with 50 cannon and how-
itzers, 20,000 rifles and much war
material.According to the Sofia war office,
Bulgarian troops are operating
successfully against the allied
troops in south Serbia. The left
bank of the Cerna is reported
cleared of the Anglo-French
forces, who are declared to have
been thrown back several miles.
Mining and aeroplane operations
on the Franco-Belgian front, both
Berlin and Paris reporting suc-
cesses at various points.Rome claims further progress
for the Italian armies in their de-
perate struggle for Gorizia. The
current official statement from
Vienna admits a slight withdrawal
by the Austrians from a small por-
tion of the Gorizia front.
Sinking of the British steamer
Kingsway with the probable loss
of five members of her crew is re-
ported by London.Berlin Official Report An-
nounces Great Number
of Defenders Taken.

EYES ARE ON RUMANIA

Belief Is Voiced That Ferdi-
nand Only Waiting Pres-
ence of Allied Forces.Berlin, Dec. 1. (via London, 3:05 p.
m.)—Army headquarters announced
today that with capture of Prisrend,
western Serbia, 15,000 Serbians were
made prisoners.Berlin, Dec. 1.—Regarding opera-
tions in the Balkans, today's official
statement says:"Successful engagements occurred
at certain points with enemy rear
guards.""At Prisrend, Bulgarian troops took
15,000 Serbian prisoners, many moun-
tain guns and other war materials."

Attention On Rumania.

London, Dec. 1. (11:45 a. m.)—The
Balkan states continue to dominate
both the military and diplomatic sit-
uation in Europe. Rumania's attitude
apparently is causing the central pow-
ers great uneasiness, while Greece's
refusal to limit her military effective-
ness as requested by the entente is of
equal concern to those powers.Rumania is said to be only awaiting
the presence in the Balkans of prepon-
derance of entente military forces be-
fore dispatching an ultimatum to Aus-
trian and German military critics, ac-
cording to dispatches reaching Lon-
don, express considerable dissatisfac-
tion with conditions in the Balkans,
predicting both military and diplom-
atic difficulties ahead despite the bril-
liant Serbian campaign of Field Mar-
shal von Mackensen. Moreover, it is
reported that Austria is opposed to the
idea and possibility of Bulgarian domi-
nation of the Balkan states, and it is
suggested that a desire to forestall any
friction in this connection was respon-
sible for the German emperor's recent
visit to Vienna.Greece steadfastly refuses to con-
cede entente demands for the unre-
stricted use of the port of Saloniki as
a base, and furthermore declines to re-
move her army from Macedonia.

Monastir Still Obscure.

Except for the capture of Prisrend
by the Bulgarians there has been no
marked change in the Serbian military
situation. The fate of Monastir re-
ported to have fallen before the Bul-
garians, remains obscure, notwithstand-
ing definite reports that neutral con-
suls in the city had arranged to turn it
over to the attackers after withdrawal
of the Serbians. But later dispatches
stated that telegraphic communication
with the city was still maintained in-
dicating that it had not been entirely
evacuated.The eastern front has been compar-
tively quiet. The Russians are re-
ported as being greatly strengthened
along the Riga line imbued with a con-
fidence that they can shatter the Ger-
man defenses whenever a forward
move is deemed expedient.Vienna reports that the Italians
seem determined to capture Gorizia
with the least possible loss of time, but
progress against the defenses of the
town is exceedingly slow.

Gold Hindlers Operations.

Paris, Dec. 1.—The announcement
regarding military activities in the
east given out by the French war of-
fice this afternoon follows:"Quiet has prevailed along our front
(Serbian) with the exception of some
artillery exchanges. The intense cold
is making operations difficult.""Dardanelles: The days of Nov. 27
and 28 were characterized by the ac-
tivity with which mining operations
were conducted by ourselves and our
enemies. An explosion brought about
by French troops caused the demoli-
tion of a Turkish listening post. The
men in one of our galleries having cut
their way to a Turkish gallery, French
sappers went forward and with re-
volvers and hand grenades compelled
the Turkish diggers to flee."ENGINEER 45 YEARS;
KILLED UNDER TRAINWaynesburg, Pa., Dec. 1.—After
working 45 years as a railroad engi-
neer, being retired last year and never
having experienced an accident in that
time, John Clouser, aged 68, met death
under the wheels of a locomotive on
the Pennsylvania near here last night.
Mr. Clouser, attempting to alight from
the engine, which was in motion, fell
and was crushed.